

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A coupled terminal unit ~~(30)~~ in which having a plurality of terminal fittings (20) are coupled substantially in parallel by at least one coupling portion (31) and are to be so that the terminal fittings are substantially parallel and in a common plane, the terminal fittings being separately arranged arrangeable in a connector housing ~~(11)~~ by cutting off the coupling portion ~~(30)~~ after being inserted into terminal insertion holes (14) formed in the connector housing ~~(11)~~, wherein:

the coupling portion ~~(31)~~ is formed ~~to be~~ into a wavy shape extending out of the plane of the terminal fittings and is extendible in an arranging direction (AD) of the terminal fittings (20) of the coupled terminal unit (30),

an arrangement pitch ~~(A)~~ of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ is narrower than an arrangement pitch ~~(B)~~ of the terminal insertion holes ~~(14)~~ in a stamped-out state of the coupled terminal unit ~~(30)~~ from a conductive plate, and

the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ can be made substantially equal to that ~~(B)~~ of the terminal insertion holes ~~(14)~~ by extending the extendible portion ~~(31)~~.

2. (canceled).

3. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 2¹, wherein the coupling portion ~~(31)~~ connects adjacent terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ at intermediate positions ~~(24)~~.

4. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 2¹, wherein the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ each comprise a widened portion ~~(23)~~ having wider than other

portions ~~(21; 22)~~ of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~, and wherein the coupling portion ~~(31)~~ connects adjacent terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ at a position at the widened portions ~~(23)~~ thereof.

5. (currently amended) The coupled terminal unit of claim 21, wherein the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ each comprise a bulging portion ~~(24)~~ to be engaged with the connector housing ~~(11)~~, and wherein the coupling portion ~~(31)~~ connects adjacent terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ at a position near the bulging portions ~~(24)~~ thereof.

6. (currently amended) A connector assembling method for a connector ~~(10)~~ having a housing with terminal insertion holes arranged at an insertion hole pitch, the method comprising the following steps:

providing a conductive plate with a selected thickness extending along a thickness direction;

providing stamping and forming the conductive plate to define a coupled terminal unit ~~(30)~~ having a plurality of terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ coupled by at least one coupling portion ~~(31)~~ such that, the coupling portion being formed into a wavy shape extending in the thickness direction, an arrangement pitch ~~(A)~~ of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ is being narrower than an arrangement the insertion hole pitch ~~(B)~~ of the terminal insertion holes ~~(14)~~ provided in a connector the housing ~~(11)~~ of the connector ~~(10)~~, and

at least partly flattening the coupling portion for extending the coupling portion(s) ~~(31)~~ in an arranging direction ~~(AD)~~ of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ of the coupled terminal unit ~~(30)~~ to thereby make the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ substantially equal to that ~~(B)~~ the insertion hole pitch of the terminal insertion holes ~~(14)~~;
and

at least partly inserting the terminal fittings-~~(20)~~ of the coupled terminal unit ~~(30)~~ into the terminal insertion holes.

7. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 6, further comprising a step of cutting off the coupling portions-~~(31)~~ after the terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ are at least partly inserted into terminal insertion holes-~~(14)~~.

8. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 6, wherein the arrangement pitch of the terminal fittings-~~(20)~~ is made substantially equal to that-~~(B)~~ of the terminal insertion holes-~~(14)~~ upon inserting the terminal fittings-~~(20)~~ of the coupled terminal unit-~~(30)~~ into the terminal insertion holes-~~(14)~~.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 96, wherein the coupled terminal unit-~~(30)~~ is provided such that the terminal fittings-~~(20)~~ each comprise a widened portion-~~(23)~~ having a wider width than other portions-~~(21; 22)~~ of the terminal fittings-~~(20)~~, and that the coupling portion-~~(31)~~ connects adjacent terminal fittings ~~(20)~~ at a position at or near the widened portions-~~(23)~~.

11. (currently amended) The connector assembling method of claim 910, wherein the coupling portions are extended by being pressed substantially along the thickness direction-~~(TD)~~.